

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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R 140648Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5853
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO USMTM DHAHRAN
USCINCEUR
CDR USA MEDCOMEUR
CINCUSAFE
COMIDEASTFOR
DIVENGR RIYADH
PM SANG RIYADH
CHUSAS RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6211

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, TBIO, US, SA, IR

SUBJECT: MEDICAL CARE FOR US MILITARY IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF: USMTM 111245Z SEP 76 (NOTAL)

1. FOR ALMOST A YEAR USMTM-SAUDI ARABIA HAS BEEN SEEKING APPROVAL TO SEND DOD PERSONNEL BASED HERE WHO ARE IN NEED OF ROUTINE MEDICAL CARE TO MEDDAC TEHRAN HOSPITAL BY MEANS OF C-130 AIRCRAFT. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL MAJOR OBSTACLES TO THIS PROPOSAL:

(A) ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH DHAHRAN CLINIC BEING SUPPORTED BY MEDDAC TEHRAN WHICH IS IN TURN PARTIALLY FUNDED BY IRANIAN GOVERNMENT.

(B) LACK OF ADEQUATE OVERNIGHT FACILITIES AT MEDDAC TEHRAN FOR OUT-OF-TOWNERS.

(C) REQUIREMENT TO USE AEROMEDEVAC EQUIPPED AIRCRAFT FOR TRANSPORT.

2. BASED ON DISCUSSIONS DURING RECENT VISIT OF MG MCCABE, MEDCOMEUR, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THESE OBSTACLES ARE
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SURMOUNTABLE AND THAT THE USE OF THE TEHRAN HOSPITAL IS

A MORE COST EFFECTIVE AND EASIER SOLUTION THAN FOR PERSONNEL TO TRAVEL TO INCIRLIK, TURKEY OR TO HOSPITALS IN GERMANY FOR ROUTINE MEDICAL CARE AND CONSULTATION AS THEY DO NOW.

3. DURING HIS VISIT, MG MCCABE SAID THAT AN ACCOUNT HAD BEEN SET UP IN MEDDAC TEHRAN TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE TO AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL STATIONED IN SAUDI ARABIA. HE ALSO SAID THAT MEDDAC TEHRAN WAS FUNDED 70 PERCENT/30 PERCENT BY IRANIAN/US GOVERNMENTS RESPECTIVELY. ACCORDING TO COE DISTRICT ENGINEER AND PM SANG, ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO COVER COST OF TREATING PERSONNEL FROM SAUDI ARABIA AT MEDDAC TEHRAN.

4. WE WOULD LIKE THE DEPARTMENT AND TEHRAN TO FAVORABLY CONSIDER TAKING STEPS TO OPEN MEDDAC TEHRAN TO DOD PERSONNEL IN SAUDI ARABIA, WHICH WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD FULFILLING A NEED. BECAUSE THE PERSONNEL NEEDING THIS MEDICAL CARE WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS OUTPATIENTS IN ANY OTHER SETTING, AEROMEDEVAC EQUIPPED AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY, ENABLING A PASSENGER CONFIGURED C-130 TO BE USED. USE OF THE C-130 WOULD ALSO PERMIT A ONE-DAY ROUND TRIP FROM DHAHRAN AND WOULD NOT REQUIRE ANY OVER-NIGHT ACCOMMODATION IN TEHRAN.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: STATE AND EMBASSY TEHRAN COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSAL.
PORTER

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